

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR RELATING SYNTAX AND SEMANTICS
FOR A CONVERSATIONAL SPEECH APPLICATION

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A conversation manager processes spoken utterances from a user of a computer.

- 5 The conversation manager includes a semantics analysis module and a syntax manager. A domain model that is used in processing the spoken utterances includes an ontology (i.e., world view for the relevant domain of the spoken utterances), lexicon, and syntax definitions. The syntax manager combines the ontology, lexicon, and syntax definitions to generate a grammatic specification. The semantics module uses the grammatic
- 10 specification and the domain model to develop a set of frames (i.e., internal representation of the spoken utterance). The semantics module then develops a set of propositions from the set of frames. The conversation manager then uses the set of propositions in further processing to provide a reply to the spoken utterance.

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